

## **UPDATE -- Los Angeles River and Ballona Creek Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDLs)**

### **The CREST (Cleaner Rivers through Effective Stakeholder-led TMDLs) Approach**

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## **Purpose of Presentation**

- **Update Southern California city officials on stakeholder progress in developing TMDLs for LA River and Ballona Creek Watersheds through CREST**
- **Invite greater participation by municipalities so outcome is reflective of watershed interests beyond those of the City of Los Angeles.**

## Overview

- Background on TMDLS
- Importance to municipalities
- Why CREST?
- Status of Work
- Next Steps
- Opportunities for your involvement

## Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDLs)

### HISTORY



- Federal Clean Water Act requires states to prioritize water bodies and to develop and implement TMDLs for those water bodies
- TMDL Responsibilities in California and Los Angeles
  - U.S. EPA
  - State Water Resources Board
  - L A Regional Water Quality Control Board (LARWQCB)
- 1998 — Consent Decree between environmental groups and U.S. EPA requires all TMDLs for the Los Angeles region to be adopted within 13 years

## Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDLs)

**There are more than 60 TMDLs impacting Los Angeles area municipalities that must be developed. To date, the following have TMDLs been released by the Regional Board:**



1. LAR Trash TMDL
2. Ballona Creek Trash TMDL
3. MdR Bacteria
4. SMB Bacteria
5. LAR Metals
6. BC Metals
7. BC Toxics in Sediment
8. LA Harbor Bacteria
9. MdR Toxics in Sediment

\* waterways enhanced

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## Draft Strategy for TMDL Development

DRAFT Strategy for Developing and Attaining Water Quality Standards in the Los Angeles Region

DECEMBER 2002




DRAFT

**December 2002—**

**EPA, State and Regional Board released “Draft Strategy for Developing TMDLs and Attaining Water Quality Standards in the Los Angeles Region”**

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## **TMDL Strategy Document (new approach & strategy) Released December 2002**

- **Invited agencies and organizations to take role of lead stakeholder**
- **Facilitate involvement and collaboration amongst community interests to develop TMDLs that would be implemented by regulated community in a cooperative fashion**



## **Significance to Municipalities**

- **TMDLs result in an allocation to reduce the load of pollutants**
- **The load is mostly from stormwater and urban runoff**
- **Municipalities are responsible for controlling pollutants from these sources through the MS4 permits**
- **Municipalities -- both large and small -- will ultimately be required to meet the load allocations for their municipalities**





## Why CREST?

- **Provides a consolidated forum for developing upcoming TMDLS for:**
  - LA River Watershed
  - Ballona Creek Watershed
- **Is the most cost-effective way to get your issues heard BEFORE TMDLs are acted on by RWQCB**

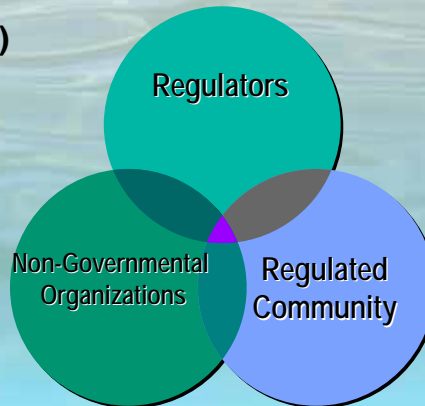


## CREST Mission

*To restore and preserve beneficial uses of our rivers and creeks using a collaborative partnership to develop TMDLs and water quality strategies with active and informed involvement by the community and stakeholders and by facilitating effective, innovative, practical, financially feasible, and integrated solutions.*

## Stakeholder Involvement

- Regulators  
(US EPA & RWQCB)
- Regulated Community  
(LA County, Cities of LA, Burbank, Glendale, Downey, BIA, Caltrans, others)
- Non-Governmental  
(Heal the Bay, The River Project, Northeast Trees, SMBRC, others)



## Water Quality Attainment Processes in California

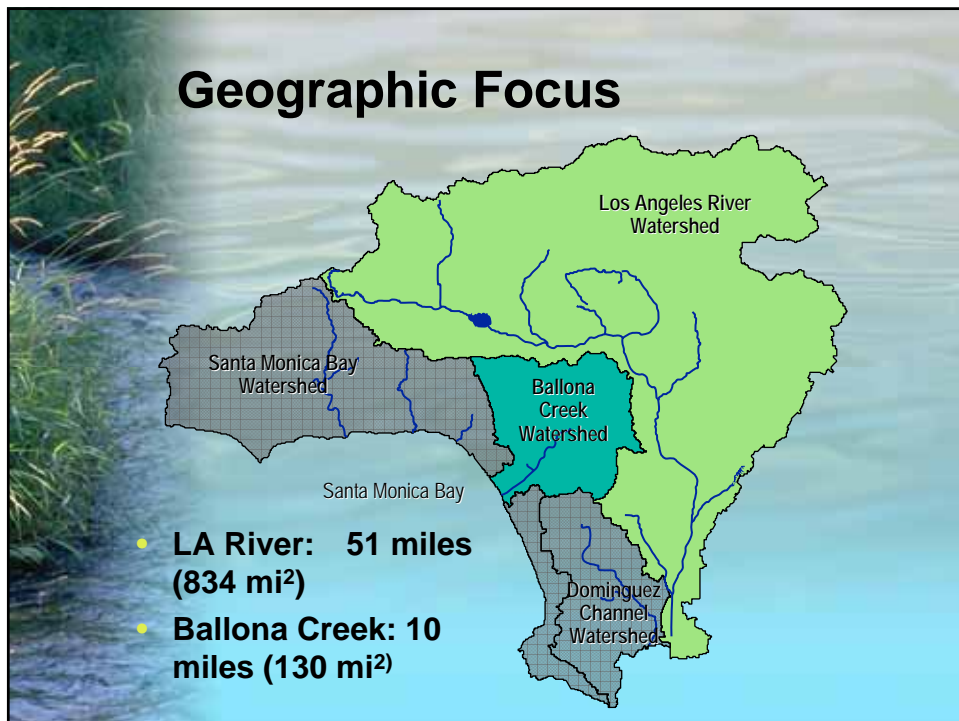
- 303(d) Listing
- Basin Plan Triennial Review
- **TMDL Development**
- TMDL Implementation

**CREST  
Focus**

## Status of CREST Work Effort: Los Angeles River and Ballona Creek Watersheds



## Geographic Focus



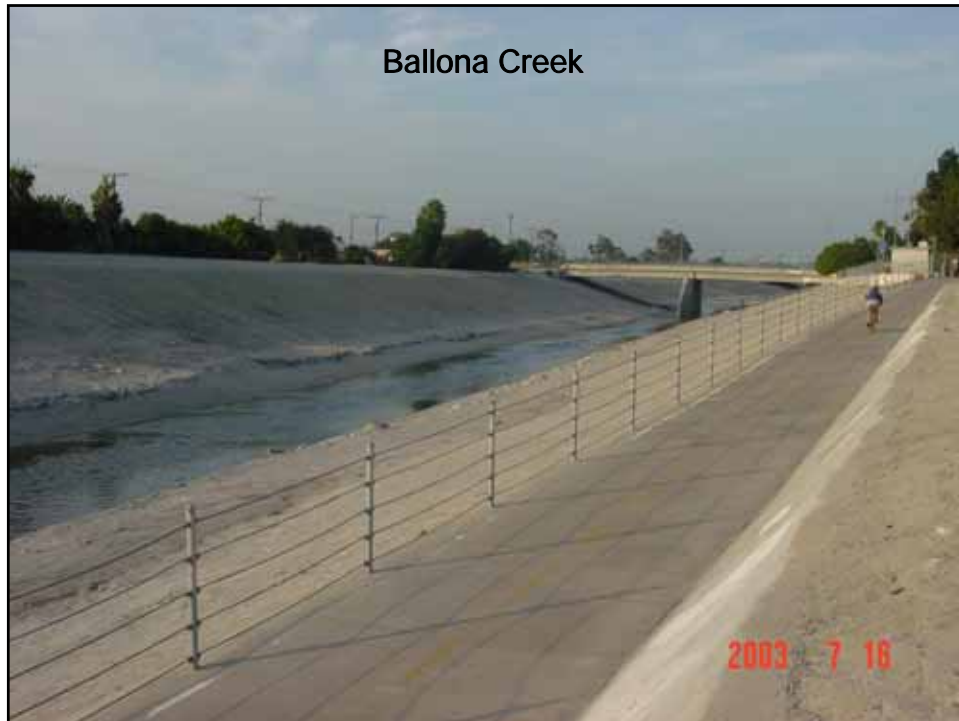
## CREST Focus in TMDL Development

- Step 2: Numeric Targets (if not changing standard)
- Step 3: Source Analysis
- Step 4: Linkage Analysis
- Step 5: Pollution Allocation
- Step 6: Implementation Strategy
- Step 7: Monitoring & Identification of Special Studies
- Conducting Special Studies
- Joint Review and Comment on TMDL Documents

## Ballona Creek










## Ballona Creek TMDLs

- Trash--complete
- Metals--complete
- Bacteria – May 2006
- Toxics in sediment - 2006
- Pesticides– future date to be determined
- Organics – future
- Others?
- **CREST focus: Bacteria Step 6 and 7**



## CREST Work on Ballona Creek Bacteria TMDL

- **Implementation Strategies**  
**Technical Memorandum: Dry Weather and Wet Weather**
  - Reduce or Eliminate Flow
  - Reduce Bacteria in Flow or in Discharges



## **Challenges**

- **Uncertainty about source of bacteria in system**
- **Relationship of implementation schedule to Santa Monica Bay Bacteria TMDL**



## **CREST Focus: Ballona Creek Bacteria TMDL**

- **Implementation Strategy just completed**
- **Regional Board staff report to be issued in March based on CREST work**
- **Action at May 2006 RB meeting anticipated**



## **Ballona Creek Bacteria TMDL Opportunities for Involvement**

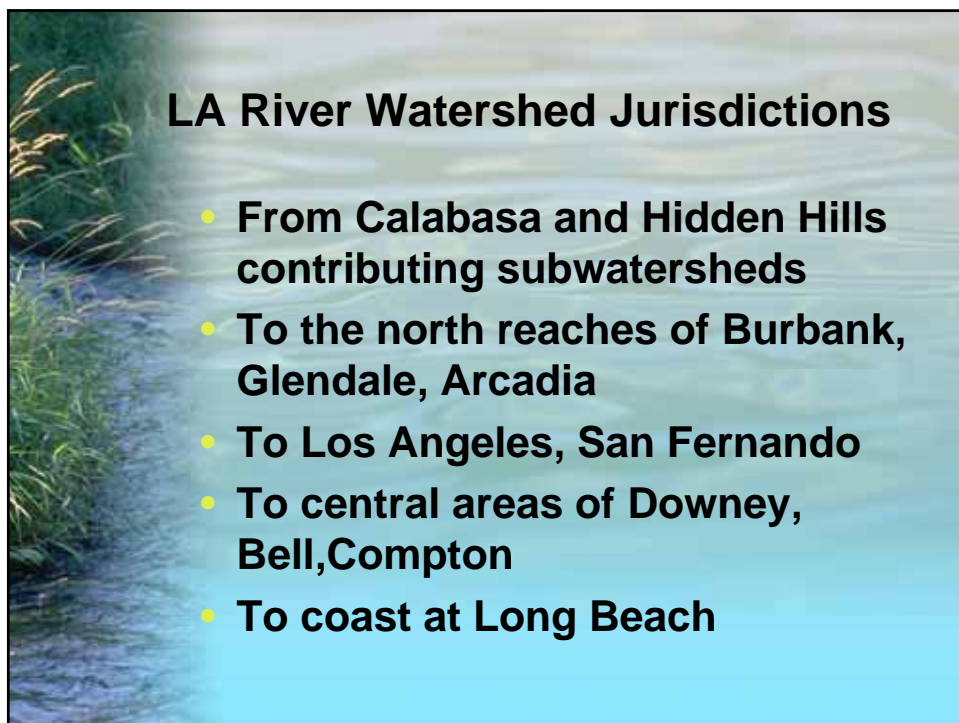
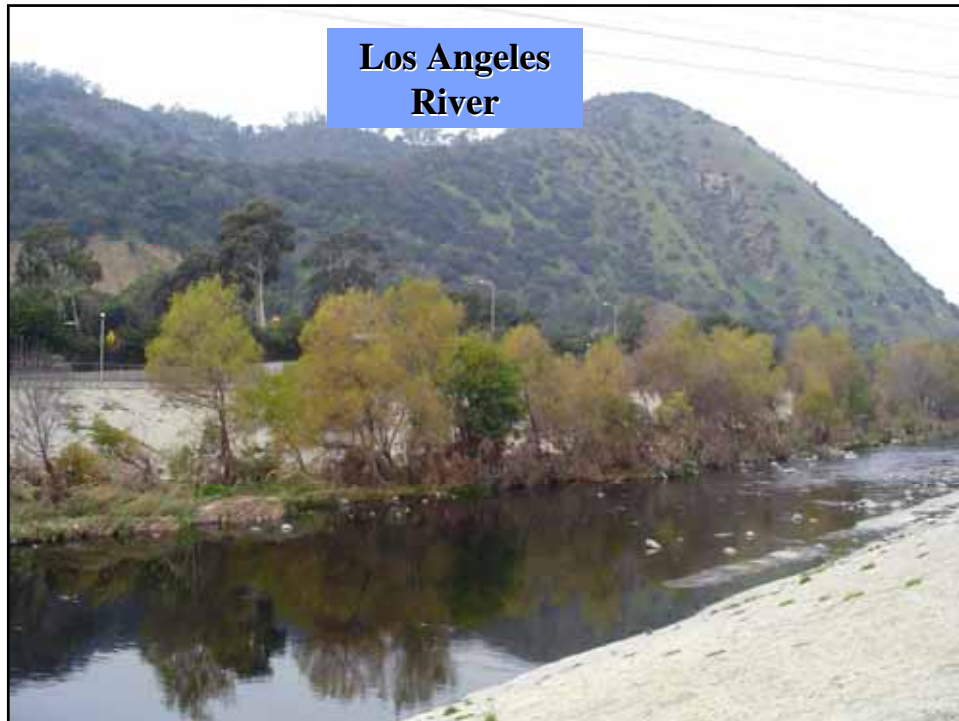
- **Now in the hands of the Regional Board**
- **Attend Public Workshops**
- **Board Action anticipated in May**



## **Los Angeles River**

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## Los Angeles River TMDLs

- Trash
- Nitrogen, pH and effects
- Pesticides (Chlyorpyrifos)
- Metals (Se, Cu, Cd, Pb, Zn, Al, Zn)
- Bacteria/Coliform
- 1,1-DCE, PCE, TCE
- Oil and grease
- **CREST focus is on all steps of Bacteria TMDL**

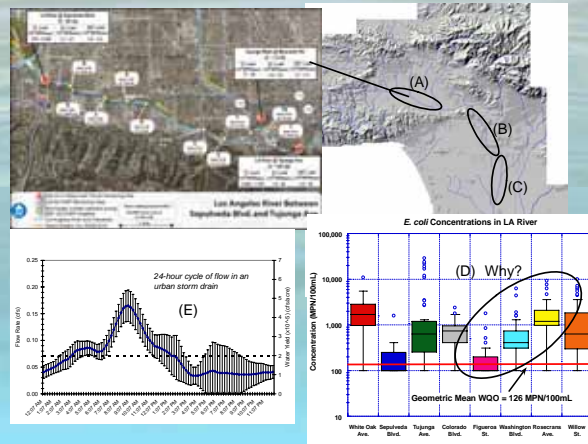
## LA River Watershed Schedule

CREST Los Angeles River Bacteria TMDL Development Schedule




LEGEND  
 ◆ Deliverables  
 ● Steering Committee Meeting  
 ● Technical Committee Meeting

# LA River Monitoring Program




## Technical Work Plan(s)

- **LA River TMDLs**
  - Develop GIS-based framework for watershed
  - Compile existing bacteria and flow data
  - Source ID and infrastructure analysis
  - Develop TMDL framework or conceptual model
  - Identify data gaps
  - Develop Quality Assurance Project Plan (QAPP)
  - Prepare Water Quality Attainment (implementation) strategy



## **Opportunities for Involvement**

- **Steering Committee Meetings**
- **Technical Committee Meetings**
- **Monitoring Program – sampling and lab in-kind**
- **We want to hear from you!**



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